



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4 INDEPENDENCE RESIDENTS, 1 KC MAN INDICTED IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that four Independence, Mo., residents and one Kansas City, Mo., man were indicted by a federal grand jury today for their involvement in a methamphetamine conspiracy.

Robert G. Currie, 36, of Kansas City, and **Ester M. Queen**, 42, **Christopher W. Smith**, 31, **Abram M. Britton**, 28, and **Shawna D. Drake**, 20, all of Independence, were charged in a six-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that the co-defendants conspired to distribute five grams or more of methamphetamine between March 10, 2004, and Sept. 2, 2004.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Queen** and **Drake** distributed methamphetamine on March 10, 2004.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Britton** distributed five grams or more of methamphetamine on March 16, 2004.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Queen** and **Smith** distributed five grams or more of methamphetamine on May 25, 2004.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Currie** and **Queen** distributed five grams or more of methamphetamine on June 29, 2004.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Currie** distributed five grams or more of methamphetamine on July 15, 2004.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph M. Marquez. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow